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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/805,821	03/22/2004	Gregory Robert Pockat	29561-1	1481

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WILHELM LAW SERVICE, S.C.
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EXAMINER

TARAZANO, DONALD LAWRENCE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1773

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/805,821

Applicant(s)

POCKAT ET AL.

Examiner

D. Lawrence Tarazano

Art Unit

1773

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09/09/2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 1773

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 22-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Curlam® Grade 1830-G in view of Kneale (6,046,254).

2. The Curlam® brochure shows films having the claimed structure in which an EVA layer comprises an anti-fogging agent, and the films are used to package oxygen sensitive food products (see the figure regarding the relative thickness of the layers).

3. While it is clear that an antifogging agent is added, the limited disclosure of the brochure does not make clear what the additive is or how much of it is added.

4. Kneale demonstrates that antifogging added to EVA in the amounts claimed (see Column 2, lines 30-44 and claims).

5. The antifogging agents comprises:

- a. a C₈ or higher ester, diester, and/or triester of a C₂ to C₈ polyhydric alcohol; and
- b. a mono-or dialkoxylated C₁₀ or higher amine. In a preferred embodiment, said film further comprises

Art Unit: 1773

c. an alkoxyated alkylphenol or derivatives thereof. Said antifog agent is present in an amount, which imparts antifog resistance performance to said film in about less than an hour.

6. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the antifogging agents taught by Kneale in the Curlam® Grade 1830-G films in the amounts claimed since these materials provide good antifogging performance.

7. Regarding the specific foods claimed, the Curlam® Grade 1830-G packaging films have antifogging properties so it is clear that they would be used to package food which had some amount of water content since fog is water condensation.

8. Since foods such as meat water, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used Curlam® Grade 1830-G to package these foods when barrier properties were needed and non-fogging properties were desired.

9. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have varied the thickness of Curlam® Grade 1830-G depending on the product packaged; this would relate to a cost / benefit analysis.

10. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have varied the thickness of the layers in the films depending on the properties of the food material to be packaged.

11. The Curlam® Grade 1830-G films can be printed; the choice of the specific printing is up to the individual as it related to the end use of the films.

Art Unit: 1773

12. Since the films have antifogging properties they would be useful for packaging moist or semi-moist foods. (There would be no reason to use a non-fogging film for a dry material).

13. Claims 22-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischer et al. (5,523,136) in view of Kuo et al. (5,962,092).

14. Fischer et al. teach multilayer films having a composite seal layer (20) which faces food when packaged, in which these composite sealing layers make up a large portion of the films' thickness as claimed. These films are used for packaging vegetables and are oxygen permeable, but Fischer et al. fail to teach the use of anti-fogging agents.

15. Kuo et al., which is from the same field of endeavor as Fischer et al., teach that surface active agents (i.e. antifogging agents) are added to films used for packaging produce to make the packaging more appealing.

16. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the anti-fogging agents taught by Kuo et al. in the structures taught by Fischer et al. in order to produce a more appealing packaged food article.

17. Since the films have antifogging properties they would be useful for packaging moist or semi-moist foods. (There would be no reason to use a non-fogging film for a dry material).

18. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischer et al. (5,523,136) in view of Kuo et al. (5,962,092) as applied to claims 22-41 above, and further in view of Kneale (6,046,254).

Kuo et al. teach using antifogging agents used in the production of permeable films. The purpose of Kneale is to show that various additives provide that function in polyolefin films. It would have been obvious to have used the anti-fogging agents disclosed in Kneale in the structures taught by Kuo et al. or Fischer et al. in view of Kuo et al. since this is merely the substitution of one functionally equivalent additive for another.

19. Since the films have antifogging properties they would be useful for packaging moist or semi-moist foods. (There would be no reason to use a non-fogging film for a dry material).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

20. The claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 22-41 are rejected as being directed to a non-statutory class of invention.

21. Regarding the recitation "Beef Jerky" or other printing, as a matter of law, printed matter is not patentable. The mere arrangement of printed matter, though seemingly a "manufacture," is rejected as not being within the statutory classes. See *In re Miller*, 418 F.2d 1392, 164 USPQ 46 (CCPA 1969); *Ex parte Gwinn*, 112 USPQ 439 (Bd. App. 1955); and *In re Jones*, 373 F.2d 1007, 153 USPQ 77 (CCPA 1967).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 09/09/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The basic issue in this application is amount of weight that should be given to the actual words printed on the packaging

The applicants argue that the rejection under 35 USC 101 is improper. The examiner disagrees. It is true that printed matter may be patented; however, it is not the content of the printing that makes the material patentable; it is using printing *per se* in a novel and non-obvious context. In this instance, the applicants attempt to rely on the content of the printing to make the invention "patentable." The issues set forth in *In re Miller*, are not the same as those here. The printing in that case was measuring marks used in the preparation of the product. They did not use the printing merely to define the product contained in the packaging as claimed here.

Furthermore, regarding the art rejections, the applicants point back to the use of "printing" to define their product. The examiner maintains that this is merely intended use and the actual substance of the printing does not convey patentability.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

Art Unit: 1773

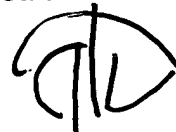
the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to D. Lawrence Tarazano whose telephone number is (571)-272-1515. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 to 6:00 (off every other Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carol Chaney can be reached on (571)-272-1284. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

D. Lawrence Tarazano
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1773

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DL' or 'D.L.' enclosed within a stylized oval or loop.